

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05806 240718Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 PPT-01 CA-01 CIAE-00
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O R 240643Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3878
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5806

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CFED, PORS, SOCI, PFIP, CVIS (MEIER, JOHN H.), CPRS,
TN, US, CA
SUBJECT: ARREST AND EXTRADITION OF JOHN HERBERT MEIER, AKA IVOR A.
ROBERTSON

REF: (A) STATE 185150 (B) CANBERRA 5762 (C) MANILA 12446
(D) WELLINGTON 3792 (E) WELLINGTON 3796

1. SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTMENT'S TELEGRAM UNDER REF (A) WAS GIVEN
TO RICHARD SMITH (LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION, DFA) SATURDAY
MORNING, JULY 22. INDEPENDENTLY, WE LEARNED THAT GOA HAD
DECIDED TO DELAY ARREST UNTIL AFTER WEEKEND, BUT THAT SUR-
VEILLANCE WOULD BE CONTINUOUS.

2. SMITH HAS JUST CALLED IN DCM TO GIVE US NOTE WHICH IN
OPERATIVE PORTION READS AS FOLLOWS: "AND HAS THE HONOR TO
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REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 078 OF 18 JULY 1978 SEEKING
THE PROVISIONAL ARREST OF MR. JOHN HERBERT MEIER PENDING
THE SUBMISSION OF A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION OF
MR. MEIER.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WISHES TO INFORM
THE EMBASSY THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO DATE TO THE

DEPARTMENT IS INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUE OF A PROVISIONAL WARRANT FOR MR. MEIER'S ARREST. THE EXACT TERMS OF THE CHARGE UNDER 18 U.S.C. 1503 WILL HAVE TO BE SUPPLIED BEFORE IT CAN BE ASCERTAINED WHETHER THE OFFENSE IS EXTRADITABLE. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING DETAILS OF ANY OTHER OFFENSES FOR WHICH EXTRADITION WILL BE SOUGHT."

3. SMITH ORIGINALLY HAD SAID THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY WOULD SUFFICE. IN CONSULTATION WITH AUSTRALIAN AG DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, TODAY SMITH WAS INFORMED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS DEFICIENT. SMITH ADDED THAT HE WAS ASSUMING THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE QUICKLY, AND PROCEEDINGS WERE NOT HOLDING STILL ON THAT ACCOUNT. HE NOTED THAT NOT ONLY WAS IT IMPORTANT THAT FORMAL PAPERS REACH THE COURT SPEEDILY, AS WE OUTLINED IN CANBERRA REFTEL, BUT THAT MARSHALLS BE READY TO COME TO SYDNEY QUICKLY WHEN DECISION IS HANDED DOWN.

4. FINALLY, SMITH CAUTIONED THAT THE MINISTER HAD STILL NOT GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR A PROVISIONAL ARREST. THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRY THAT MEIER, ON AUTHENTIC TONGAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, MIGHT CLAIM COURIER STATUS, OR TRANSIT TO ANOTHER PLACE WHERE HE MIGHT BE (INSTANTLY) ACCREDITED. GOA EXPECTS MEIER TO RAISE FASTEST ROW THAT HIGH-PRICED LEGAL TALENT CAN MUSTER. EMBASSY POINTED OUT THAT INSTANT

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NEWS TO IT OF PREVENTIVE ARREST WOULD ENABLE IT TO PASS INFORMATION ON TO WELLINGTON AND WELLINGTON, HOPEFULLY, TO DEFUSE ISSUE WITH KING OF TONGA.
ALSTON

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